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COUNTRY	Hungary	SECURITY INFORMATION	REPORT NO.
TOPIC	1. SP Artillery Battalion in Papa and Activation of New SP Artillery Units 2. Army Corps Headquarters in Szekesfehervar and Kecskemet		
EVALUATION	25X1X	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1C
DATE OF CONTENT	prior to 9 November 1950 and partially until the summer of 1951		
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	5 December 1951
REFERENCES	25X1C		
PAGES	3	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	2 - one report on the handling of classified material and one sample of a secret military letter
REMARKS			

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SOURCE

III/3 SP Arty Bn in Papa.

1. Prior to 9 November 1950, the III/3 SP Arty Bn in Papa (P 48/Y 30) was subordinate to the Hq III Army Corps in Szekesfehervar (Q 48/Z 00). Until 7 June 1950, the battalion, which had postal No 1131, was located in the new barracks installation south of Papa, on the west side of the road to Tapolcafe (P 48/Y 30), a short distance from the junction with the road to Papakovacs (P 48/D 39). The barracks installation, which also quartered a motorized artillery regiment with postal No 1935, was still under construction. (1) From 7 June to 9 November 1950, the battalion was located in a summer camp at Kecskemet (Y 6/N 95), in a woods about 6 km east of Korekegyhaza (Y 6/N 75) and northwest of the Kisnyir (Y 6/N 85) railroad station. The battalion was quartered there together with a signal battalion, a light AAA battalion and a reconnaissance company. Upon completion of the summer training period, the SP artillery battalion was deactivated. Until the beginning of September 1950, the battalion was commanded by Major Emil Dercs, about 28 years old, a former lathe operator and a Communist. He was detached to the Hq III Army Corps in early September, and succeeded by Captain Ivan (fnu), about 44 years old, who was in command of the battalion until the date of deactivation.
2. The SP artillery battalion in Papa numbered 12 officers and 142 men. It was organized into a headquarters, 1 signals platoon and 3 batteries, with each battery consisting of only 1 platoon equipped with a light 76-mm SP gun. The signals platoon had 3 model R/3 radio sets. Vehicles assigned to the battalion consisted of 4 sedans, 3 trucks and 3 weapon carriers, with 2 trucks and the weapon carriers being barred from operation. The SP guns were Soviet model SU-76s, but mounted another type of gun without muzzle brake and did not have the typical housing for buffer and recuperator mechanism in front of the mantlet. The personnel of the battalion wore red service color until June 1950 and blue service color thereafter. The insignia on the collar patches was a small SP gun, not a tank.
3. Basic training with the SP artillery battalion lasted one month. Special training for drivers, gunners, machine gunners and radio operators was started in the summer camp. In late September and early October 1950, the battalion participated in a large-scale field exercise held in south Hungary in the

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area between the Danube and Theiss Rivers. The field exercise terminated in the vicinity of Baja (Y 6/S 28). All orders given during the exercises were so worded that they did not reveal information on the type and designation of other units participating in the exercise. The SP artillery battalion did not return to its home station from the summer camp.

Activation of New SP Artillery Units.

4. The III/3 SP Arty Bn was deactivated on orders by the Hq III Army Corps in Szekesfehervar. The battalion was broken up into 16 elements which were largely used as cadre units for the activation of new SP artillery units. One of these elements was transferred to Aszod (Q 48/H 83). It included Lieutenant Laszlo Bihari, formerly commander of headquarters personnel and about 40 years old, and Lieutenant Kalmar Lasp, formerly adjutant and about 38 years old. In the spring of 1951, source learned from Bihari, who had meanwhile been promoted to the rank of senior lieutenant, that he had been appointed commander of a new SP artillery battalion which was built up from the element in Aszod and subsequently transferred to Retsag (Q 48/H 67). The new battalion was still in Retsag in early September 1951. (2) Another element, under the command of Captain Laszlo Juhasz, formerly motor transport officer and about 32 years old, was transferred to Polgardi (P 48/R 08). In the spring of 1951, source learned from Juhasz that he served with an SP artillery battalion in Polgardi. A third element, under the command of Senior Lieutenant Nagy (fnu), formerly supply officer and about 27 years old, went to Kalocsa (Y 6/N 31). In the summer of 1951, source learned from the officer, who had been promoted to the rank of captain, that he served as supply officer with an SP artillery unit in Kalocsa. A fourth element under the command of Junior Lieutenant Kiss (fnu), formerly battery officer, went to Tapolea (Y 4/D 35); a fifth element under Junior Lieutenant Arpad Szeman, formerly counterintelligence officer, to Kiskunfeheryhaza (Y 7/O 03); a sixth element under Junior Lieutenant Pal (fnu), formerly battery officer, to Miskolc (R 49/J 87); a seventh element without officers to Veszprem (P 48/N 78); and an eighth element without officers to Nagykanizsa (Y 4/A 26). Six other elements of the deactivated SP artillery battalion were also transferred to other posts, but source did not learn whether new SP artillery battalions were activated from them. They included one under Senior Lieutenant Jozsef Hollosi, formerly political officer and about 30 years old, which moved to Kiskunhalas (Y 6/N 70); a second under Senior Lieutenant Hegyi (fnu), formerly commanding officer of the 1st Btry, which moved to Gyongyros (Q 48/J 24); and others without officers which moved to Marcali (Y 4/A 68), Pecs (Y 5/B 22), Mór (P 48/Y 81) and Szekszard (Y 5/B 66). Another element of the former SP artillery battalion was reassigned to the guard battalion of the Ministry of National Defense in Budapest. Senior Lieutenant Nagy (fnu), formerly commanding officer of the 2d Btry, was detached to the army corps headquarters in Kecskemet. (3)

Army Corps Headquarters in Szekesfehervar and Kecskemet.

5. The Hq III Army Corps was located in Szekesfehervar [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Non-classified documents, which were usually circulated at battalion level, mentioned only the postal numbers of units. Since the secret documents at the army corps headquarters were never marked out for distribution, source was unable to determine other units subordinate to the corps. (4) In the summer of 1950, when the III/3 SP Arty Bn was in the summer camp at Kecskemet, the battalion received correspondence from the Hq III Army Corps through the Hq 12th Inf Div which was located at Kecskemet at that time. In the fall of 1950, the Hq 12th Inf Div was raised to

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the status of army corps headquarters, remaining in Kecskemet, however, the Hq III Army Corps was not deactivated in Szekesfehervar despite the activation of a new army corps in Kecskemet, at least until 9 November 1950 when the III/3 SP Arty Bn was deactivated. Until that time, the AP artillery battalion continued to receive orders by the Hq III Army Corps in Szekesfehervar. (5) Source learned from officers that another SP artillery battalion was located in Suettoer (P 48/X 83), but did not return to its home station upon completion of the 1950 summer and fall training period.

Miscellaneous.

6. The morale of the personnel belonging to the III/3 SP Arty Bn was poor because of uncertainty regarding the duration of the term of active service and because of letters from relatives telling of their distressed conditions at home, which contradicted the tales by political indoctrinators about the high standard of living of the Hungarian people. Relations between officers and enlisted men were strained because many officers attempted to cover their poor general and technical knowledge by arrogant behaviour. Frequently lectures delivered by officers had to be corrected by enlisted men. For example, the political officer was unable to answer satisfactorily questions regarding the Marxist doctrine to enlisted men who largely came from Budapest and had received political indoctrination there.

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Comments.

- (1) [redacted] belonging to a motorized artillery regiment in Papa in June 1950, and was mentioned in several reports after March 1951 as belonging to an artillery unit in Kiskorocs and Kecel. [redacted] The motorized artillery regiment was probably transferred from Papa to Kiskorocs.
- (2) Another source said that two mechanized regiments of the unidentified mechanized division in Esztergom were stationed in Aszod and Retsag respectively. On the basis of information regarding the organization of the third mechanized regiment of this division, it is believed that a mechanized regiment has an organic tank battalion. [redacted] SP artillery units are probably also components of the mechanized regiments.
- (3) Infantry units are known to be stationed at all posts specified. According to information from another source on the organization of the infantry regiment in Szentes, it is believed that an infantry regiment has an organic SP artillery company. [redacted]
- (4) For translations of a report on the handling of classified military correspondence, and of a sample of a secret military letter, see Annex 1 and 2.
- (5) The information confirms the headquarters of an army corps in Kecskemet. See [redacted].

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2 Annexes: 1 -- report on the handling of classified material
1 -- sample of a secret letter.

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Handling of Classified Material at the III/3 SP Arty Bn.

Secret correspondence was typed on paper marked by a yellow diagonal stripe which ran from the upper left to the lower right corner. Classified mail was conveyed by couriers only. It was not to be handled by postal authorities. All incoming secret letters were accepted by the head of the classified records office and logged in the record of classified documents. They were subsequently submitted to the battalion commander who in turn controlled the distribution to the proper officers. The head of the classified records office kept a distribution record which had to be signed by officers receiving secret documents. Each referent had a strong-box for classified documents, whose key he turned in to the head of the classified records office daily after duty hours. These officers were the battalion commander, the political officer, the adjutant, the commander of headquarters personnel, the supply officer, the paymaster, the motor transport officer and the personnel officer. After proper action had been taken, the secret documents were returned to the head of the classified records office. There were express orders that secret documents were to be handled by officers only. However, since the officers were in constant fear of disclosing military secrets in unclassified letters, an excessive number of secret letters were written, which overburdened the officers in charge to such a degree that they had the battalion clerk help them. Another reason that the officers asked enlisted clerks for help was the fact that on the basis of their education they were unequal to their tasks because most of them came from the working class.

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